



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
GEORGE PHILLIPS, COMMISSIONER

News Release

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STATE HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE ANNOUNCES NEW STANDARDIZED TRAINING PROGRAM

Mississippi tops states as most aggressive to address active shooter threats

The Mississippi Office of Homeland Security announced today a new standardized statewide active shooter training program to better prepare law enforcement officers to respond to shooting incidents. This program, which is coordinated and funded through the Homeland Security office, comes as part of the agency's ongoing initiatives to aggressively address active shooter threats across the state.

"A crucial part of responding to any emergency is being adequately prepared," said J.W. Ledbetter, director of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security. "By establishing this single standardized program, we're ensuring that our law enforcement professionals are equipped with the necessary skills to respond to active shooter situations. I'm pleased to say this program moves Mississippi to the forefront in protecting the state's most vital assets—its citizens."

The active shooter training program is designed to increase the ability of local and state agency law enforcement officers to respond more quickly and effectively to active shootings, or when one or more individuals participate in a shooting spree with the sole intent to harm or kill others. Specifically, program participants will undergo training that prepares them to respond to active shooting situations at schools, courthouses, churches, factories, and other locations.

"The training program couldn't be more relevant," Ledbetter continued. "With recent tragedies like the Virginia Tech and Columbine shootings, and previous incidents closer to home, the development of this program will be an important step in ensuring our law enforcement professionals can duly perform their mission of protecting everyday citizens."

The new program has been adopted by all six statewide law enforcement training academies. In addition, the program is recognized by the Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training.

For more information on the program, contact **Todd Frier** at **601-346-1509** or **tfrier@mdps.state.ms.us**.

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